

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 18-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the title and claims 1, 2 and 16 are amended, and claim 17 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter found therein.

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 2-9, 11, 13-15, 17 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Such has been done with claim 16 which has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 17. Thus, claims 16 and 18-20 are now in condition for allowance. However, with respect to the remaining allowable claims, which depend from claim 1, Applicant submits claim 1 is allowable over the applied art as discussed below.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the title was objected to. The title has been amended substantially as suggested. However, Applicant has not used the word "guides" as such might imply more than the term used of "fixing portions". It is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Also on page 2, claim 17 was objected to because of an informality. The material from claim 17, as incorporated into claim 16 to place claim 16 in condition for allowance, has been revised in the manner suggested. However, it is submitted that such is a change in form only and has no real bearing on patentability, the two directions being identical and the amended language only being an alternative expression of that direction.

As to the objection to claim 18, it is submitted that such is unnecessary. Claim 18 depends upon claim 16. In claim 16, both "at least one ink tube" and "at least one flexible printed circuit (FPC)" are introduced. The language of claim 18 indicates that the at least one tube comprises a plurality of ink tubes which further limits at least one ink tube, and that the at least one FPC comprises at least two FPCs which again further narrows the original expression. As such, there is nothing unclear as the phrase "at least one" in each case is being

further defined. To use the language suggested in the Office Action would introduce confusion because the question whether the "at least one ink group" or the "at least one FPC group" is the same as or different than the at least one ink tube or the at least one flexible printed circuit (FPC). Therefore, it is respectfully requested the objection be withdrawn.

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1, 10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) being anticipated by Chosa, U.S. Patent No. 5,831,656. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's invention of claim 1 calls for a printer comprising a recording unit including a print head that prints onto a recording sheet, a carriage that has the print head thereon, a guide mechanism that guides and supports the carriage in a main scanning direction, and a carriage moving mechanism that moves the carriage in the main scanning direction, the recording unit comprising a frame that surrounds a scanning range of the carriage in which the print head performs printing onto a recording sheet, the guide mechanism and the carriage moving mechanism attached to the frame, the frame having at least an opening on a top thereof; and a cover body that is fixed to the frame so as to block a part of the opening of the frame and that has a window that enables a user to have access to a recording sheet within the frame, wherein the window of a cover body is elongated in the main scanning direction with an edge having curved ends and a length greater than a width of the recording sheet. Chosa discloses no such structure.

As shown in Fig. 3, Chosa has a frame 4. However, the frame 4 has no covering over it. The frame is mounted within a case having an upper case 17 and a lower case 18. The upper case 17 has an aperture, unnumbered, that is covered by a head cover 20, and then by a top cover 19. Thus, there is some question whether the upper case 17, which could be the only part equated to Applicant's cover body, is fixed to the frame 4. However, if one assumes such is the case, and such can only be an assumption, there being no such disclosure, then the

aperture clearly is not elongated in a main scanning direction, rather it extends in a subscanning direction, it does not have an edge having curved ends, and it clearly does not have a length greater than a width of a recording sheet as can be seen by the aperture therebelow through which the printed media is expelled which is considerably wider.

As such, Chosa does not literally disclose the same claimed invention of claim 1. Further, Chosa does not suggest the invention of claim 1 for the reasons discussed.

As to claim 10, there is absolutely no showing anywhere in Chosa that the upper casing 17 connects the front wall and the rear wall of the frame. The upper casing 17 is more likely connected to the lower case 18. Thus, there is nothing in Chosa that anticipates the subject matter of claim 10. As to claim 12, it is allowable for all the reasons claim 1 is allowable and for the additional features recited therein.

On page 5 of the Office Action, claims 16, 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Hiramatsu et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,789,882 (hereinafter "Hiramatsu") in view of Rasmussen et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,872,026 (hereinafter "Rasmussen"). The rejection has been rendered moot by the amendment of claim 16 to include the allowable features of claim 17. Thus, claims 16, 18 and 20 are allowable in addition to the previously indicated allowable claim 19 and it is respectfully requested the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-16 and 18-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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